

Official Minutes
State Soil Conservation Board Meeting
February 20, 1959

The regular meeting of the State Soil Conservation Board was held in the Shrimp Net Cafe, Kenedy, Texas beginning at 7:00 p. m. February 20, 1959.

Members present were: E. W. Wehman, A. F. Leesch, J. S. Sharp, and J. C. Porter.

Others present were: A. C. Spencer and Garner Jones of the State Soil Conservation Board; Gentry Powell, Edwin Yanta, W. H. Ford, Emerick Wiatrek, and Edwin G. Mengers of the Karnes County Soil Conservation District; W. P. Coleman of the Alamo Soil Conservation District; I. B. Ray of the Wilson County Soil Conservation District; T. E. Sistrunk of the Ecletto Creek Watershed District; L. L. Reasoner of the Hondo Creek Watershed Improvement District; and John Herring, Roy Freeman, Fritz Graeber, James Monroe, Jack E. Megason, and Thomas L. Edmundson of the Soil Conservation Service.

The minutes of the February 3, 1959 meeting were read and approved.

New watershed applications were presented by A. C. Spencer on the following watersheds:

1. East Bay Bayou - Trinity Bay Soil Conservation District No. 434
2. Northeast Utopia Community Watershed - Nueces-Frio-Sabinal Soil Conservation District No. 221

A motion was made by A. F. Leesch and seconded by J. C. Porter to disapprove these applications pending a preliminary field examination report. The motion carried.

The field examinations report recommending approval of Mimms Draw was read by A. C. Spencer. A motion was made by J. S. Sharp and seconded by A. F. Leesch to approve the Mimms Draw Watershed. The motion carried.

Newly printed copies of the Trinity Plan were presented to each Board Member present. J. C. Porter discussed the important features of the plan.

Copies of the Progress Report on Texas Soil and Water Resource Planning were presented to each Board Member present. Garner Jones explained the contents of the report and stated that each Soil Conservation District was to receive a copy in the near future.

A. C. Spencer reported on the progress of the proposed Irrigation Survey of the State. He stated that plans were completed to conduct the survey in four districts by April 1 to test procedures and determine the cost involved, and that the districts to be surveyed first were Willacy-Hidalgo, Brazoria-Galveston, Brazos-Robertson, and Parmer County. Mr. Spencer also stated that the Directors of the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts had passed a resolution at their recent meeting endorsing the proposed survey.

In the matter of the election of new supervisors in Wharton County Soil Conservation District, A. C. Spencer reported that they were scheduled for February 24, 25, and 26, 1959. It was also stated that the District had requested assistance from the State Board in developing their District Program and Plan.

A report on the Budget Hearing before the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives on February 19, 1959 was given by A. F. Leesch. Mr. Leesch stated that the Soil Conservation Board was represented by E. W. Wehman, A. F. Leesch, and A. C. Spencer, and were joined by Howard Boswell, Executive Director and W. S. Gibbs, President, of the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts, and the five Area Vice-Presidents in appearing before the Committee. Mr. Leesch gave testimony relative to the Departmental Budget of the State Board while W. S. Gibbs gave testimony supporting the requested appropriations to Soil Conservation Districts. Prepared material pertaining to the budget request was given to the Committee after the testimony was given.

Mr. A. F. Leesch also reported on a joint meeting of the State Soil Conservation Board representatives, the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts representatives, and Ralph of Hall of the County Judges Association for the pur-

pose of discussing the sponsorship of the proposed Bill to clarify authority of counties and other state subdivisions to cooperate with Soil Conservation Districts in the maintenance of flood prevention work. It was stated by Mr. Hall that he would recommend to his group that they support the Bill but it was felt that it would be preferable for the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts to sponsor it; also that the final decision on the sponsorship and support of the Bill would be made at the meeting of County Judges and Commissioners on February 26, 27, and 28 to be held at Texas A & M College.

E. W. Wehman reported that he and A. F. Leesch together with A. C. Spencer have had discussions with representatives of State Game and Fish Commission preparatory to working out a suggested Memorandum of Agreement between the Commission, the State Soil Conservation Board and local Soil Conservation Districts. The Commissions' News Letter is to be sent to the secretaries of Boards of Supervisors in each Soil Conservation District for use of the Districts.

A. C. Spencer reported that a request had been received from the Directors of the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts for instructions to be furnished each of the District Supervisors on their duties and responsibilities. Mr. Spencer stated that a set of instructions would be prepared as soon as possible for distribution to each supervisor.

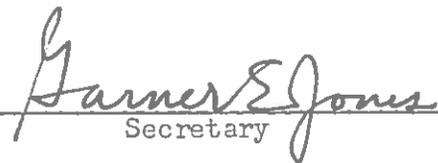
A. C. Spencer read a request from the Gaines County Soil Conservation District that the name of their District be changed to Gaines-Andrews Soil Conservation District. A motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by J. S. Sharp that the request be granted. The motion carried.

The date of the next Board Meeting was discussed. It was pointed out that it would be an important meeting and that priorities for planning would be recommended on possibly five or six watersheds. It was decided that the meeting would be held on March 14, 1959, in Temple in the State Office where records of each watershed application and hearing were on file.

A. C. Spencer reported that Dr. Patterson, Vice-President for Agriculture at Texas A & M College had extended an invitation to the Board for them to hold one of their regular monthly meetings at the College in the near future. He stated that he felt it would be desirable for personnel of the College to attend the meeting and to meet the Board Members. The Board Members expressed their appreciation for the invitation to meet at A & M and stated that a definite date would be decided upon at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p. m.


Chairman


Secretary